

REMARKS

The applicants extend their sincere appreciation to the examiner for the recognition of allowable subject matter.

The status of the application is as follows:

- Rejected claims 1-13 and 15-24 have been canceled herewith;
- Claims 14, 25-30 and 32-33 were previously canceled;
- Claims 31 and 34-35 remain in the application.

The examiner, in the Office Action concurred with the applicants that these three remaining claims contain patentable subject matter and are distinguishable over the cited prior art.

By this amendment, applicants are not conceding that the canceled claim are unpatentable over the prior art references applied by the Examiner. Instead, the claims have been canceled solely to facilitate the prosecution of the subject matter and to place the remaining three claims in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims and other claimed subject matter in one or more additional continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 31, 34 and 35 are immediately allowable. According, an early indication of allowability is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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